



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 133

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 189

Senate, March 29, 2018

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. MOORE, M. of the 22nd Dist. and SEN. SUZIO of the 13th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN
COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (4) of subsection (j) of section 46b-129 of the
2 2018 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

4 (4) The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child or youth
5 for the duration of the commitment, provided the child or youth has
6 not reached the age of eighteen years, or until another guardian has
7 been legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the
8 care of such child or youth, such other public or private agency or
9 individual shall be the guardian of such child or youth until such child
10 or youth has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child
11 or youth in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical
12 education and career school, a college or a state-accredited job training

13 program, until such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one
14 years or until another guardian has been legally appointed. The
15 commissioner may place any child or youth so committed to the
16 commissioner in a suitable foster home or in the home of a fictive kin
17 caregiver, relative caregiver, or in a licensed child-caring institution or
18 in the care and custody of any accredited, licensed or approved child-
19 caring agency, within or without the state, provided a child shall not
20 be placed outside the state except for good cause and unless the
21 parents or guardian of such child are notified in advance of such
22 placement and given an opportunity to be heard, or in a receiving
23 home maintained and operated by the Commissioner of Children and
24 Families. In placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall give
25 priority to a placement in the home of such child or youth's
26 grandparent or grandparents, provided such child or youth's
27 grandparent or grandparents agree to such placement and such home
28 conforms to the standards of said commissioner. Absent a placement
29 in the home of such child or youth's grandparent or grandparents, the
30 commissioner shall, if possible, select a home, agency, institution or
31 person of like religious faith to that of a parent of such child or youth,
32 if such faith is known or may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry,
33 provided such home conforms to the standards of said commissioner.
34 [and the commissioner shall, when] When placing siblings, the
35 commissioner shall, if possible, place such children together. Upon the
36 issuance of an order committing the child or youth to the
37 Commissioner of Children and Families, or not later than sixty days
38 after the issuance of such order, the court shall determine whether the
39 Department of Children and Families made reasonable efforts to keep
40 the child or youth with his or her parents or guardian prior to the
41 issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether
42 such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the
43 child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health
44 and safety.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	46b-129(j)(4)
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KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

This bill, which requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to give priority to placing a child in its care and custody with a grandparent or grandparents, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the agency. Currently, more than 40% of the approximately 4,300 children in DCF care are placed with relatives.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 189*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to give priority to placing a child in its care and custody with a grandparent or grandparents, provided they agree to such placement and the home conforms to the commissioner's standards. (The bill does not specify which grandparents have priority in the event that the child has multiple eligible grandparents.) Presumably, these grandparents would have to comply with the foster care licensure requirements currently necessary for DCF to place a child in their home on a long-term basis.

By law, when a juvenile court commits a child to the care and custody of DCF, the department may place the child (1) with a fictive kin or relative caregiver; (2) in a suitable foster home; (3) in a licensed child-caring institution; or (4) in the care and custody of an accredited, licensed, or approved child- caring agency.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/15/2018)